(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau





(43) International Publication Date 31 July 2003 (31.07.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number WO 03/062249 A2

(51) International Patent Classification7: C07F 3/00, 3/02

(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB03/00163

(22) International Filing Date: 16 January 2003 (16.01.2003)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

0201141.9 18 January 2002 (18.01.2002) G

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- (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declaration under Rule 4.17:

- of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only

Published:

 without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: COORDINATION COMPLEX



(1)

WO 03/062249

(57) Abstract: The present invention provides a complex of formula (I) wherein M is Ca, Mg, Ba or Sr; L_1 is selected from R^1O , R^2S , R^3R^4N , R^5R^6P , a substituted or unsubstituted cyclopentadienide, and a substituted or unsubstituted pyrazolyl group, where R^{1-6} are each independently H or hydrocarbyl; L_2 is selected from R^7R^8O , R^7R^8S , $R^7R^8P^9N$, $R^7R^8C=NR^9$, $PR^7R^8P^9$, and a substituted or unsubstituted heterocycle containing one or more O, N or S atoms, Where R^{7-9} are each independently H or a hydrocarbyl group; or L_1 and L_2 are linked to form a bidentate ligand; L_3 is absent or is a solvent molecule, or a neutral ligand as defined for L_2 , wherein L_3 may be the same or different to L_2 ; or L_3 is linked to a further metal center; or L_1 , L_2 and L_3 are linked to form a tridentate ligand; and X is an alkyl group, an aryl group, an aryloxide, an amide group, or an enolate group of formula R^{10} $R^{11}C=CR^{12}O$ -, wherein $R^{10\cdot12}$ are each independently H or hydrocarbyl; with the proviso that when L_1 and L_2 are $\{HC(C(CH_3)=N-2,6^{-1}Pr_2C_6H_3)_2\}$ and M is magnesium, X is other than Me or ^{18}D .